



Member update following the INF Board Meeting November/December 2018

The INF Board met on November 30th and 1-2nd December in Dubai, UAE.

The Board met with the President and Board of Emirates Netball and heard of their ambitious plans for development of the sport within the UAE.

The Board reflected on the sad loss and the untimely death of Patrick Bauman IOC Member, GAISF President and General Secretary of FIBA whilst in Argentina in October. The sporting world is mourning the loss of a great leader. Condolences have been sent to FIBA.

The meeting was structured according to the three core strategies in the INF Strategic Plan Netball 2020:

- Empowering through Netball
- Governing with Integrity
- Thrilling World Class Events

Empowering through Netball

The **Sustainability and Development Working Group** provided the Board with a proposal on fundraising to enable the delivery of INF's strategic plan. The Board considered this proposal and thought it should be developed further.

The Board reviewed the **progress of Member netball associations** around the world. Each of the regional directors gave a report which included progress on the use of the INF Net Effect Grants.

The Board noted some significant developments including;

- Netball Africa and Americas AGMs had taken place in the period; attendance was at record levels for both.
- A new Executive Committee was elected for AFNA and the new President and regional representative is Marva Bernard. Marva will join the INF Board after the NWC2019.
- The importance of good governance and effective administration in elections was highlighted.
- The final three NWC2019 Qualification Tournaments had taken place since the last meeting in Africa, Americas and Asia and coverage was livestreamed and is available on the INF NWC2019 YouTube channel. The teams who qualified are Uganda, Zimbabwe, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Sri Lanka and Singapore.
- At the Regional Qualifier in Barbados, Coaches and Umpires were involved in a two-day seminar led by INF Coaching and Rules Advisory Panel members, including court practical sessions and theory sessions.
- The Asian Netball Federation ran an Umpiring Camp in Singapore from 2nd to 5th July 2018. 32 participants from 8 countries took part for 4 full days (and nights) of personalised training.
- Netball Europe held two age-group events U21 Championship and U17 Challenge Competition
- England Netball held a one-day Fast5 tournament at the Copper Box in London involving teams from the Super League franchises. It was televised by Sky.
- Australia won the Quad Series in September (involving Australia, England and South Africa).

Governing with Integrity

The Board continued the discussions from the last meeting in July on Board effectiveness and succession planning. The value of independent directors to provide external perspectives and scrutiny of decision making was considered.

The plans for **Congress 2019** were reviewed. The Board approved the content of the proposed agenda and theme. Congress will be held on Wednesday 10th and the morning of Thursday 11th July 2019. The Congress Calling notice will be issued in January with details on how to submit agenda items, nominate individuals for the elections, book accommodation and gain accreditation to attend the NWC2019. The INF will publish a new code of conduct intended to ensure and maintain the highest standards of conduct for election campaigns and those seeking elected positions in the INF. NWC2019 OC is offering a financial subsidy to assist delegates in attending Congress, so we hope a majority of Members will be able to attend this important meeting, which will elect the next President of INF.

A full educational programme will run for Member delegates during the duration of the Netball World Cup beginning on Friday 10th July and running for 8 days. The programme has been put together in collaboration with England Netball, NWC2019 and UK Sport.

Details of the NWC2019 Observer programme are issued with this Member update. A number of free places are being offered for this programme to support Members in delivering 'World Class Events' and priority will be given to those countries planning to host an INF event in the next four years.

The **INF Service Award** will be presented at Congress. Nominations are invited from Members. The nomination forms were issued in December and must be returned by the 28th February.

The Board reviewed the **financial position** of the INF and approved the **budget** and operational activities for 2019. The Board approved INF Net Effect Grants of £5,000 for each of the 5 INF Regions for 2019 to support their Members' activities.

The Board considered the **key risks** that face the organisation and how they are mitigated by the operational plans.

The Board reviewed the existing **INF Equality & Diversity Policy** and agreed one minor change which underpinned the support given by INF to the empowerment of women. A new **Social Media Policy** was approved. Both policies will be issued to Members.

Thrilling World Class Events

The Board received progress reports from the Technical Delegates/Organising Committees for the following events:

- Fast5 NWS Melbourne 2018
- Netball World Cup Liverpool 2019 (reporting on all 9-12 month deadlines)

The Board was more than satisfied with the progress made and congratulated Netball Australia for another fantastic Fast5 event. The event was won by New Zealand who beat Jamaica in the final.

The NWC2019 draw took place in September and this was attended by INF President Molly Rhone. Already over 70,000 tickets have been sold. Vitality has been announced as title sponsor and the matches will be broadcast in the UK by Sky TV and the BBC.

The Board noted that some Members were unhappy with the ticketing process for the NWC2019. They had missed the opportunity to purchase tickets in the 'pre-sale' period for NWC2019 family and partners from 17th July (before the tickets went on general sale to the public on 19th September). The Board discussed the issues that had been raised and concluded that communications to Members during the pre-sale period could have been clearer to ensure they registered with the

NWC2019 and so were invited to purchase tickets. The Board noted that provision had been made for the 16 participating teams to purchase tickets for friends and family to watch the sessions when they were playing.

The 16 participating teams have now selected their hotel accommodation and first payments were due on 20th December.

The Board considered the **Bid Evaluation Process for hosting the NWC2023** – technical visits had been carried out to both bid cities in September – Auckland, New Zealand and Cape Town, South Africa. Member feedback had been received and taken into consideration. The bidders each made a presentation to the Bid Evaluation Committee at the end of November and the BEC provided the Board with their initial evaluation of the strength of the two bids across 13 key areas. The bidding cities have received feedback on their own bids and have responded to any outstanding matters. A final report from the BEC is to be prepared in January and the Board is expected to make a decision on the host by March 2019 at the latest.

The International Umpiring Manager (IUM) provided a full report to the INF Board including the development of a vision for world class officiating building on the research carried out in 2017. The officiating population has grown to 39 International Umpires Award (IUA) and 15 International Talent ID Umpires (ITID), 17 International Umpire Testers ITP and 8 ITP Cadets. For further details see the Officiating Quarterly Review published by the IUM.

Reports from Committees and Panels

Pat Butcher Chair of the **Commercial Committee** provided a verbal update on the Committee that had taken place on Friday 30th November. The INF had appointed Lagardère Sports and Media to sell the Broadcast rights for INF events and a progress report on the sale of rights for the NWC2019 had been reviewed.

The Board approved the budget for the development of a Mobile App/streaming solution.

The Board received a verbal report from Tina Browne Chair of the **Governance Committee** (GC), summarising the progress that had been made. The INF is considering a proposal to instruct a specialist body to be involved in complaints handling and dispute resolution to provide independence.

A new combined Ethics and Anti-corruption Code was reviewed. This had been prepared with the assistance of lawyers Bird and Bird (who assisted in drafting the Codes in 2013) to ensure compliance with the relevant IOC Codes of Ethics. The existing INF Code of Conduct had been reviewed and was deemed to be fit for purpose.

A report was received from Jill McIntosh the Chair of the **Coaching Advisory Panel** (CAP) following their meeting in Barbados in August. CAP is planning on running a coaching workshop in Liverpool during the Netball World Cup as part of the educational programme.

Cheryl Danson, Chair of the **Rules Advisory Panel** (RAP) proposed a number of minor rules changes to tidy up the rules or to provide clarification where there was ambiguity or contradiction. A full list of suggested amendments was requested, and approval will be sought from the Members. A plan of work including developing tools to inform participants in the application of the rules was discussed. These proposals will be developed further by RAP.

Next Board Meeting

The Board will meet in March 2019 in the USA.

Clare Briegal
INF CEO
January 2019

INF Board Decisions 2018

Date	Format	Decision
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Operational plan and targets for 2018 approved
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Financial Statements would be approved via Email due to the timing of the Board meeting in relation to the external audit.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Investment proposal approved – INF reserves retained in an interest-bearing savings account with Skipton International Ltd
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	As a general policy the Board will adopt the principle that information should be published, unless there is a reason not to do so, such as commercial sensitivity or to protect the identity of individuals.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Updates to 'Position Statement on Male participation in Netball' approved
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Appointments for Coaching and Rules Advisory Panels from April 1 st approved.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Draw Format Working Group will be dissolved.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Extreme Heat Policy approved.
March 2018	Email	Financial Statements for INF Ltd and INF Secretariat UK Ltd. 2017 approved following receipt of the auditor's report.
April	CEOs Meeting at CG	In consultation with the Members present at the CG, the INF Board agreed that there would be no Fast5 Netball World Series in 2019 with a view to beginning the next series in 2020.
April	Email	Appointment of the Jury of Appeal for Fast5 NWS 2018
July	Board Meeting	Beever & Struthers appointed as auditors for the period 2018-2020 inclusive.
July	Board Meeting	The 'Audit & Finance Committee' renamed the 'Audit & Risk Committee'.
July	Board Meeting	The 'Governance Working Group' changed to the Governance Committee - a standing committee of the INF Board.
July	Board Meeting	Revised minimum reserves level approved.
July	Board Meeting	Investment plan approved.
July	Board Meeting	Budget assumptions for 2019 approved.
July	Board Meeting	GDPR compliant policies approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Protection Policy • Document and Data Retention Policy • Privacy Policy • Subject Access Request Policy • Data Breach Policy
July	Board Meeting	Operational plan to deliver 'World Class Officiating' approved.
October	Email	Approval of TOR for NWC2023 Bid Evaluation Committee
October	Email	Approval of TOR for Commercial Committee

October	Email	Approval of updated TOR for Medical Committee
November	Email	Approval of Regional Officiating Co-ordinator appointees for each region.
November	Email	Approval of changes required to Articles of Association to allow a Corporate Director to be appointed to secure banking provision in the IOM (note: changes must be approved by 75% of the Membership)
November	Board Meeting	Approval of the INF Congress 2019 agenda and theme
November	Board Meeting	Approval of the operational budget for 2019
November	Board Meeting	Approval of an updated Equality & Diversity Policy
November	Board Meeting	Approval of a Social Media Policy
November	Board Meeting	Approval of the Technical Delegate appointment for NWYC2021